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Outcomes of regional preparatory meetings

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Singapore Declaration of the Alliance of Small Island States

(Adopted at the Alliance of Small Island States Inter-regional preparatory meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Singapore from 7 to 11 January 2002)

SINGAPORE DECLARATION OF THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES INTER-REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS),

Having met in Singapore from 7 to 11 January 2002;

Reaffirming the objectives and commitments of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and Agenda 21, the Bridgetown Declaration and the Barbados Program of Action on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA) and the outcome of the 22nd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);

Being aware that the process of analysis and evaluation of Agenda 21, leading to the Johannesburg Summit, is important to the fulfillment of commitments and the implementation of measures previously agreed by the international community at Rio for mitigating and addressing the urgent problems of sustainable development;

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Recognizing that the BPOA represents a concrete expression of Agenda 21, and that Agenda 21, the BPOA and the outcome of the 22nd Special Session of the UN GA embody a number of principles, which provide the international community with clear guidelines for the promotion of the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and take account of their unique characteristics and circumstances, and their economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities;

Noting the commonalities of priority issues for sustainable development particular to SIDS in sub-regional and regional submissions made by SIDS regions to the WSSD;

Recalling that SIDS are recognized as a special case and deserving of special treatment because they are ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable, they face particular constraints in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and their specific physical circumstances often make it difficult for them to benefit from global economic development;

Recognizing that SIDS possess unique human, natural and cultural wealth and constitute a crucial part of world heritage;

Recognizing also that the primary effort in the implementation of the BPOA has been carried out by SIDS themselves;

Emphasizing that issues for action identified in the BPOA in particular climate change, oceans, energy, transportation, tourism, natural resources and biodiversity, natural and man made disasters, and land degradation remain priorities for implementation;

Concerned that new and emerging challenges notably globalization and trade liberalization, the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as the continued lack of financial resources and institutional and human capacity, access to and use of ICT, and compromise the ability of SIDS to achieve sustainable development;

Underscoring that poverty remains a major problem affectingthe capacity of many SIDS to achieve sustainable development, compromising their ability to provide basic physical and

social services such as basic education, health care, nutrition, water and sanitation; and sustainable human settlements;

Reaffirming the critical importance of intensified existing and new efforts for capacity building for SIDS;

Emphasizing the need for renewed international action on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as stated in the Rio Declaration, and reaffirming the vision that global and regional challenges for sustainable development demand the harmonization of positions among all countries;

Recognizing that several SIDS have pursued a number of development options inter alia international financial services to diversify their economies and participate in global trade in services;

Bearing in mind that the High Level International Conference on Financing for Development is to be held from 12-18 March 2002 at Monterrey, Mexico, and expecting that its outcomes will positively contribute to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD);

Reaffirming the importance that SIDS attach to actively participating in the preparatory process leading to the WSSD;

Welcoming the continued efforts of the AOSIS to enhance the participation of SIDS in negotiations of multilateral environmental and trade agreements and to promote the sustainable development of SIDS, including in the implementation of the BPOA;

Welcoming also the initiative by the Government of Singapore, in its effort to help increase the capacity of developing countries and SIDS, in particular, in the field of sustainable development and management of the environment, to establish an Environment Academy;

Affirming the importance of partnership with the private sector and local communities and recognizing that all major groups have a role to play in advancing sustainable development

Have agreed to:

Call for international support to facilitate the active participation of SIDS in the preparatry process leading to the WSSD and the Summit itself;

Accelerate national and regional implementation of the BPOA, and to request the international community to provide adequate financial resources, transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound technologies and assistance for capacity-building for such national and regional implementation, as agreed in Agenda 21 the BPOA and the outcome of the 22nd Special Session of the UN GA;

Call for the establishment and identification of the necessary resources for a global capacity building initiative, learning from the experience of ongoing initiatives including Capacity 21 and the GEF CDI, by 2003. This initiative should be coordinated across the UN system and engage national, sub-regional and regional institutions and mechanisms for delivery and support;

Support the strengthening and further enhancement of the significant partnership between civil society and the public sector in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the BPOA;

Encourage urgent international and domestic action to address climate change and its consequences through *inter alia*, the early ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, public awareness, mobilization of resources for adaptation, promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures and capacity building;

Reiterate the call on the international community to support and strengthen existing and new capacity building efforts of SIDS in all its aspects, and strengthen co-operation among SIDS particularly in the area of technical co-operation for sustainable development by supporting SIDS initiatives, as exemplified by Singapore's initiative in setting up an Environment Academy to further SIDS inter-regional collaboration on environmental training;

Urge the international community to put in place appropriate mechanisms to support SIDS in their efforts to adjust to globalization and trade liberalization, and call on the WTO to recognize the special situation of SIDS and ensure that in the elaboration of its Work

Program on Small Economies as a follow-up to the Doha Ministerial Declaration, it takes due account of the difficulties encountered by SIDS, including effective operationalization of special and differential treatment, and capacity building initiatives;

Seek to establish a global sustainable energy program, that can ensure that adequate, affordable and environmentally safe energy is available to promote the sustainable development of SIDS, including the strengthening of the institutional arrangements within the UN system to assist and support SIDS in their efforts to achieve sustainable energy development and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency;

Call for the mobilization of new and additional resources, including foreign direct investment, official development assistance and debt relief, as well as innovative mechanisms for the financing of development in SIDS;

Call also for special financial mechanisms or instruments to enable SIDS to enhance their national capacity to develop or exploit their resources in a sustainable manner;

Establish policies and frameworks to foster innovative partnerships for micro, small and medium enterprises, including specially earmarked revolving financial mechanisms and supportive human resource development initiatives to revitalize rural productive capacity, and to enhance the competitiveness of the rural sector and stimulate employment opportunities;

Call for the establishment or strengthening of policy and programs to manage the ocean resources and jurisdictions in a sustainable manner, the development of holistic island system management and ecosystem-based management approaches at the national level, the promotion of an integrated management approach through a regional oceans and seas policy with access to appropriate technology, data management systems and related research and capacity building;

Call also for the early operationalization of the economic and environmental vulnerability indices for the promotion of sustainable development of SIDS and other vulnerable states, and the use of these indices at the levels of intergovernmental and international agencies, as

well as international support for the development of a social vulnerability index to complement this work;

Call further on the international community to provide technical and financial assistance to enhance the ICT infrastructure of SIDS, and to further develop SIDSNet and other regional initiatives and networks;

Request that the preparatory process recommend that the WSSD reaffirms the necessity of implementing fully the BPOA as a matter of urgency;

Request also that the preparatory process recommend that the WSSD adopt a decision for a comprehensive review conference on the BPOA in the year 2004 (Barbados + 10);

Agree to establish an open-ended consultative contact group of AOSIS to further formulate the set of priority issues and initiatives on the basis of the work begun during the AOSIS Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting;

Submit this Declaration to the preparatory process for its full consideration.